

Joint statement on Hospital Standardised Mortality Ratios

HSMRs have generated considerable debate and public interest. Along with other indicators, they can usefully help us to understand comparative information about in-hospital deaths. But they have limitations, and should not be used as a sole indicator of patient safety. To do so could potentially give a misleading interpretation of a hospital's safety record. They should be used with other relevant indicators as a tool to support the improvement in the quality of care.

We will be working together to address and explain these limitations. On behalf of the National Quality Board, we will agree a single HSMR methodology for the NHS and prepare simple practical guidance on what HSMRs tell us and how they should be interpreted.

This work will include leading experts and senior NHS clinicians and managers who are in the front line when explaining how these data relate to the quality of care that trusts provide.

Pending this work, we have agreed to continue using the existing methodology for HSMRs as published on NHS Choices to avoid any further confusion in the service and the wider public.



Professor Sir Bruce Keogh
NHS Medical Director



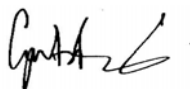
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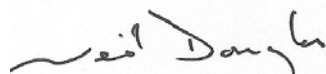
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